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the first needs of a research institute. Otherwise a worker may spend weeks, months, or even years, in arriving at the solution of a problem which has already been solved by some other worker, or which with proper library facilities could be solved in a few days. This library will be at the service of all research workers in New Zealand. It is also proposed to maintain the most friendly relationship with the Departments of Agriculture, Education and Mines, so that the work of the institute and of the government departments should be complementary to each other, having for their ultimate objects the welfare and advancement of the Dominion and of the empire. The late Mr. Cawthron was very much interested in the establishment of a solar observatory in Nelson, whose climate is particularly suited for this purpose.

#### ANTHROPOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS OF ALASKA

THE *Pennsylvania Gazette* reports that Chief Louis Shotridge, of the Chilkat of the Tliknit Indians of Southwestern Alaska, long a member of the staff of the University Museum, has returned from four years' explorations among his own people. In that time he secured many hundreds of unique ethnological specimens for the museum, having spent most of his time collecting and writing down in the native language the manners, customs, traditions and religious rites of the various tribes. It is believed that Mr. Shotridge is the first trained anthropologist who has ever done work of this sort among the American Indians using the native tongue. Chief Shotridge took all his notes in the Chikat language and will now spend the coming months in reducing them to English and making explanatory notes, which will form unique volumes in the history of our aborigines.

Mr. Shotridge took along a phonograph to record folk-songs and especially the ceremonial chants which accompany every great demonstration of the tribe. Unfortunately, the guttural sounds did not record well, so he was obliged to commit all these songs to memory. They will be taken down at once in ordinary musical notation by an expert.

There are more than thirty of these ceremonial hymns. In addition he learned more than 100 folk-songs, which will be recorded. All of these will also be recorded on the phonograph.

Mr. Shotridge says that his people are so rapidly acquiring civilized customs and manners that before long there will be left none to hand down the ancient culture. He considers himself fortunate to have been able to find enough old people in his tribe to make the records complete.

The specimens he brought back are in many instances unique and some were given because the medicine men and chiefs foresee the extinction of native culture and want the relics preserved. The collections preceded Mr. Shotridge, and most of them are now on exhibition at the University Museum. Mr. Shotridge brought back a bride from his own tribe, who will assist her husband in his work.

#### A DEPARTMENT OF FOREST RECREATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF FORESTRY

A NEW department, that of Forest Recreation, has just been established at the New York State College of Forestry, Syracuse University. This department will assist in the development of the educational work of the college, both along investigational and instructional lines, in the proper uses of forest areas for public recreation purposes. The establishment of this department is in line with the endeavor of the college to make its work of real service to the people of the state and to increase the right use of forests and forest lands. This is the first department of forest recreation to be established in a school or college in this country.

With the great Adirondack and Catskill Forest Reserves, Palisades Inter-state Park, Letchworth Park and some thirty other public forest reservations, the whole totaling nearly two millions acres, New York state has unique forest resources capable of securing to its millions of people great public good in the way of recreational uses. Just as playgrounds are being established in villages and cities throughout the country where play may be organized and prop-